

Castro to Return Body Of U.S. Air Force Pilot

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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Oct. 31—Acting U. N. Secretary General U Thant announced on his return here tonight from Havana that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro has promised to return the body of Maj. Rudolf Anderson, Jr., pilot of the U. S. photo reconnaissance plane missing since Saturday.

"At my request, the Cuban government has agreed to return on humanitarian grounds the body of Major Anderson," Thant declared in a press statement issued on his arrival from Havana at Idlewild Airport tonight.

Thant's announcement indicated that Major Anderson's plane was shot down by Cuban antiaircraft defenses, as suspected, and that the Air Force

officer had become the sole American fatality of the Cuban crisis. The Defense Department disclosed in Washington Saturday that a plane piloted by Anderson was missing after a flight over Cuba, but did not say whether the plane had been shot down.

Anderson, 35, was twice awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. The Major had been in the Air Force for 11 years.